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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
Fourth session
11-21 February 1997
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Implementation of forest-related decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at the national and international levels, including an examination of sectoral and cross-sectoral linkages.

3. International cooperation in financial assistance and technology transfer.

4. Scientific research, forest assessment and development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

5. Trade and environment in relation to forest products and services.

6. International organizations and multilateral institutions and instruments, including appropriate legal mechanisms.

7. Other matters.

8. Adoption of the report of the Panel on its fourth session.

Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commission of the Economic and Social Council provides that the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

At its first session, the Panel decided that the agendas of its forthcoming meetings should include all the issues in its programme of work in order to allow for their consideration in a balanced and integrated manner. At the same time, the Panel felt that certain issues should be dealt with in depth at particular future sessions.

At its second session, the Panel decided that it would hold its fourth session in New York for a period of two weeks in 1997 and that it would establish two in-session working groups, which would meet simultaneously.

At its third session, the Panel reiterated the above decision and agreed that at its fourth session it would:

(a) Continue and finalize negotiations on the text of its report to the Commission on Sustainable Development, using the elements for conclusions and proposals for action emanating from the third session;

(b) Integrate in the text additional proposals and inputs, including the results of inter-sessional activities that have taken place since its third session, as well as proposals for action under programme elements V.1 and V.2;

(c) Rationalize the structure of its final report. In this connection, the Panel requested the Co-Chairmen, in consultation with the Bureau, to make appropriate proposals.

2. Implementation of forest-related decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at the national and international levels, including an examination of sectoral and cross-sectoral linkages (Programme elements I.1-I.5)

Documentation

Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on its third session (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/2)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the note by the Co-Chairmen of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on elements of a draft report (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/3)

3. International cooperation in financial assistance and technology transfer (Programme element II)

Documentation

Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on its third session (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/2)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the note by the Co-Chairmen of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on elements of a draft report (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/3)

4. Scientific research, forest assessment and development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management (Programme elements III.1 (a) and (b) and III.2)

Documentation

Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on its third session (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/2)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the note by the Co-Chairmen of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on elements of a draft report (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/3)

5. Trade and environment in relation to forest products and services (Programme element IV)

Documentation

Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on its third session (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/2)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the note by the Co-Chairmen of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on elements of a draft report (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/3)

6. International organizations and multilateral institutions and instruments, including appropriate legal mechanisms

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on programme element V.1 (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on programme element V.2 (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/5)

7. Other matters

8. Adoption of the report of the Panel on its fourth session

By its decision 1995/226, the Economic and Social Council decided, upon the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to approve the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental panel on forests. The Panel is to pursue consensus and formulate coordinated proposals for action towards the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. The Panel was expected to present a progress report to the Commission at its fourth session, in 1996, and will present its final conclusions and policy recommendations to the Commission at its fifth session, in 1997.